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REMARKS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 4, 2007. Claims 1-15 were pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the claimed subject matter without narrowing a scope of the claim, and new claim 16 has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-16 are now pending, with claims 1 and 16 being in independent form.

Claims 1-8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,239,732 to Yamada in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,894,707 to Nemoto. Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly unpatentable over Yamada in view of Nemoto and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,215,479 to Matsui.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

This application relates to improvements devised by applicant for a medical image diagnosis apparatus which enable an operator to set imaging conditions (for example, imaging position and range, a certain number of instances of image reconstruction, image reconstruction positions, a scanner angle, etc.) for obtaining a tomographic image of a portion of a subject.

Yamato does not involve such setting of imaging conditions.

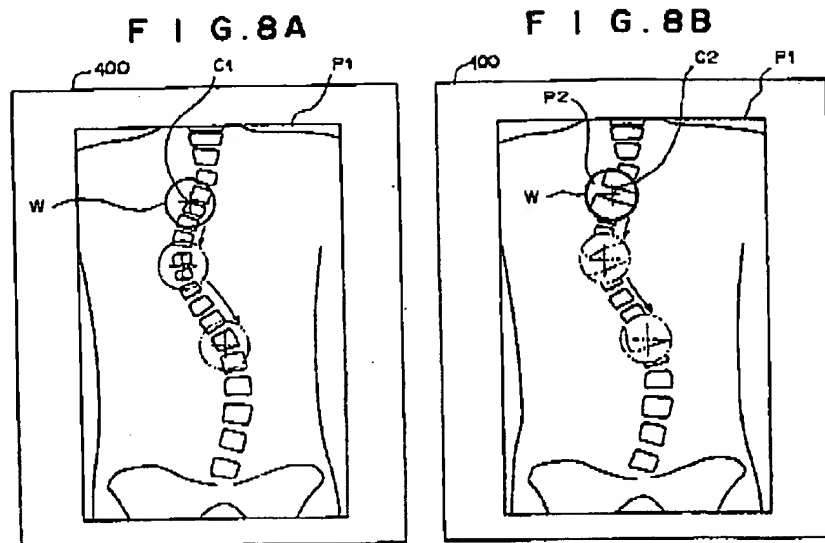
Yamada, as understood by applicant, proposes an approach for a user to determine various information (such as positions of and distance between various points) in a stored radiographic image. Such information is obtained by "measuring" points in the stored image.

Figs. 8A and 8B (reproduced below) of Yamada which were cited in the Office Action correspond to an entire image P1 alone (Fig. 8A) and the image P1 with an enlarged view P2 of a

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portion of the entire image superposed thereon.



As discussed in Yamada, column 8, line 12 through column 10, line 41, a user utilizes a mouse to maneuver a cursor C1 (Fig. 8A) to a point at which an enlarged view is desired and the desired enlarged view is shown in Fig. 8B with movement of a cursor C2 therein and movement of cursor C1 being synchronized. The user positions cursor C2 to specify a measuring point K1, and the process can be repeated to specify one or more additional measuring points K2. Based on the specified measuring points (K1, K2), measurement means 250 in the system proposed by Yamada measures a distance between K1 and K2.

However, Yamada does not involve inputting/setting and displaying imaging conditions for tomographic images to be obtained.

Yamada simply does not disclose or suggest a medical image diagnosis apparatus which images a subject by forming a whole image of a subject portion of a subject, displays imaging conditions on the whole image, and allows an operator to set or modify the imaging conditions for obtaining a tomographic image of the subject portion under the imaging conditions, wherein a second display device extracts one or more of the imaging conditions and displays the

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extracted imaging conditions, and an operating device (operated by an operator) variably inputs or changes the imaging conditions displayed in a display image frame on the second display device, as provided by the subject matter of claim 1 of the present application.

The other cited references do not cure the deficiencies of Yamada.

Nemoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,894,707), as understood by Applicant, proposes a display device for displaying tomographic images as a series by paging.

However, Nemoto, like Yamada, does not provide relevant teachings directed to inputting/setting and displaying imaging conditions for tomographic images to be obtained.

Moreover, Nemoto, like Yamada, does not disclose or suggest a medical image diagnosis apparatus which images a subject by forming a whole image of a subject portion of a subject, displays imaging conditions on the whole image, and allows an operator to set or modify the imaging conditions for obtaining a tomographic image of the subject portion under the imaging conditions, wherein a second display device *extracts one or more of the imaging conditions and displays the extracted imaging conditions*, and an operating device (operated by an operator) *variably inputs or changes the imaging conditions* displayed in a display image frame on the second display device, as provided by the subject matter of claim 1 of the present application.

The other cited references do not cure the deficiencies of Nemoto.

Matsui, as understood by applicant, proposes an apparatus for displaying an image with a pointing character. Matsui was cited in the Office Action as purportedly proposing a display apparatus comprising a touch panel and an operating device comprising a pointer.

However, applicant does not find teaching or suggestion in the cited art of a medical image diagnosis apparatus which images a subject by forming a whole image of a subject

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portion of a subject, displays imaging conditions on the whole image, and allows an operator to set or modify the imaging conditions for obtaining a tomographic image of the subject portion under the imaging conditions, wherein a second display device *extracts one or more of the imaging conditions and displays the extracted imaging conditions*, and an operating device (operated by an operator) *variably inputs or changes the imaging conditions* displayed in a display image frame on the second display device, as provided by the subject matter of claim 1 of the present application.

Likewise, the cited art does not disclose or suggest a medical image diagnosis apparatus which forms a whole image of a subject portion of a subject and obtains one or more tomographic images under imaging conditions set based on the whole image, wherein a second display device displays an imaging condition setting frame for setting imaging conditions for obtaining one or more tomographic images, an operating device for an operator to selectively set the imaging conditions utilizing said imaging condition setting frame displayed by said second display device, and a display control device for displaying information indicating positions on the whole image displayed on the first display device of said one or more tomographic images to be obtained, based on the imaging conditions set with the operating device, as provided by the subject matter of claim 16 of the present application.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 16, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentable over the cited art.

The Office Action indicated that claims 9 and 11-13 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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However, since independent claim 1 from which claims 9 and 11-13 depend is submitted to be patentable over the cited art, no changes to the form of claims 9 and 11-13 are believed to be necessary.

In view of the remarks hereinabove, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that are required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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